

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 PCH-04 OMB-01

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

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APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

NEA/EGY - MR. STERNER

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

----- 012085

R 191949Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION NATO
SECDEF
USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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SECDEF FOR ISA AND DSAAE.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
SEPTEMBER 19, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. YESTERDAY YOU COULDN'T TELL US VERY MUCH ABOUT
THESE TECHNICAL TALKS REGARDING THE PHANTOM JET PLANES,
AND YOU SAID YOU WOULD TRY TO LOOK INTO IT AND GIVE US AN
IDEA WHAT TECHNICAL TALKS MEAN. I WONDERED IF YOU HAD
ANYTHING FOR US TODAY.

A. I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE FOR YOU EXCEPT I
USED THE WORD "BRIEFINGS," AND THAT INDICATES BETTER WHAT
IS, IN FACT, BEING DONE. ON BACKGROUND, AS I SAID BEFORE,
I ASSUME IT'S TALKING ABOUT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE
WEAPONS SYSTEM AND LOGISTICS, THAT TYPE OF THING.

Q. SINCE YESTERDAY HAS THE DEPARTMENT ENDEAVORED, EITHER
WITH THE SAUDIS OR THE FRENCH, TO DETERMINE THE VALIDITY
OF THESE REPORTS ABOUT PURCHASE OF MIRAGES?

A. I SUGGESTED YESTERDAY THAT YOU MIGHT BEST ASK THE
PARTIES CONCERNED TO ADDRESS THE QUESTIONS THAT YOU WERE
ADDRESSING TO ME.

Q. MY QUESTION IS, IN EFFECT, ARE YOU TAKING THAT ADVICE
TO HEART YOURSELVES?
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A. WE HAVE BEEN AWARE, AS I SAID YESTERDAY, OF DISCUS-
SIONS BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND THE SAUDIS, BUT I'LL LEAVE IT
RIGHT THERE.

Q. ON LEBANON. THERE WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN TEN
MEMBERS OF A RELIGIOUS SECT ARRESTED IN LEBANON, FIVE OF
THEM AMERICANS. DO WE HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A. THE CHILDREN OF GOD GROUP? NO, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE RELEASE OF THE GUERRILLAS IN JORDAN?

A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT. THAT IS AN INTERNAL DECISION OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT.

Q. DO YOU LIKE IT?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT.

Q. DO YOU THINK IT'S GOING TO HELP THE AMERICAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT.

Q. IN THAT CONNECTION, THE HEAD OF THE AIRLINE PILOTS' ASSOCIATION AGAIN THREATENED DRASTIC ACTION UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE TO CONTROL AIR PIRACY. HAS ANY PROGRESS BEEN MADE ON ANY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING THAT SUBJECT OF NEW INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS?

A. THAT'S TAKING PLACE IN ROME, THE TALKS ON IT.

Q. PRESUMABLY AN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE IS THERE.

A. YES, AMBASSADOR ROUNTREE IS THERE. AND WE'VE PREVIOUSLY SPOKEN ON THE SUBJECT HERE OR IN BRIEFING PAPERS THAT WE HAVE PROVIDED TO YOU. BUT IN TERMS OF THE STATUS

OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, OR TALKS, DISCUSSIONS, I DON'T HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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ANYTHING FOR YOU TODAY. END QUOTE. RUSH

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